

the fact that a woman is raped every five minutes in this country, and that nearly one in every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. In fact, more women are injured by domestic violence each year than by automobile accidents and cancer deaths combined.

These facts illustrate that there is a need in Congress to help states and communities address this problem that impacts all of our communities.

I recently joined Senator JOE BIDEN (D-DE), Senator ORRIN HATCH (R-UT), Senator TOM DASCHLE (D-SD), and others in sponsoring bipartisan legislation, S. 2787, to reauthorize the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. Authorization for the important programs contained in this law has already expired, and Congress must act now to ensure that successful programs dealing with domestic violence are funded in the future.

As a state lawmaker in 1983, I wrote one of the first domestic violence laws in South Dakota which dedicated a portion of marriage license fees to help build shelters for battered women. I was also a cosponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act in 1990 in the House of Representatives. Even at that time, many people denied that domestic violence existed in our state. Finally, in 1995, the President signed legislation to strengthen federal criminal law relating to violence against women and fund programs to help women who have been assaulted.

Since the Violence Against Women Act became law, South Dakota organizations have received over \$6.7 million in federal funding for domestic abuse programs. In addition, the Violence Against Women Act doubled prison time for repeat sex offenders; established mandatory restitution to victims of violence against women; codified much of our existing laws on rape; and strengthened interstate enforcement of violent crimes against women.

The law also created a national toll-free hotline to provide women with crisis intervention help, information about violence against women, and free referrals to local services. Last year, the hotline took its 300,000th call. The number for women to call for help is: 1-800-799-SAFE.

In addition to reauthorizing the provisions of the original Violence Against Women Act, the legislation that I am sponsoring in the Senate would improve our overall efforts to reduce violence against women by strengthening law enforcement's role in reducing violence against women. The legislation also expands legal services and assistance to victims of violence, while also addressing the effects of domestic violence on children. Finally, programs are funded to strengthen education and training to combat violence against women.

I have asked the Senate Judiciary Committee to quickly pass S. 2787, and I am hopeful that the Senate will ap-

prove this important piece of legislation this year so that we can continue fighting domestic abuse and violence against women in our state and communities.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to the barbaric practice of torture. Yesterday—June 26th, was the 3rd annual U.N. International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors. The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition has designated this week, June 26th—June 30th, the week of commemoration of torture victims and survivors. Mr. President, colleagues, we should take this week to honor victims of torture, but more importantly, we should use this week as a reminder that together, we can make our world torture-free.

Torture has no ideological, geographical, or other boundaries—survivors of torture are everywhere. The practice of torture is one of the most serious human rights abuses of our time. According to the 1999 Amnesty International report, torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment conducted by government security forces, or condoned by other government officials, occurred in 125 countries last year.

As a Senator from Minnesota, I am extraordinarily proud of the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis, which since 1985 has been doing pioneering work in addressing the complex needs of survivors of torture. And while we have come a long way in the last fifteen years in raising awareness of torture and helping torture victims, there is still much more we should and could be doing to stop this terrible practice.

My own agenda in the Senate has included a number of human rights initiatives, including the sponsorship of the original Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998, which authorized funding to support foreign and domestic treatment centers in providing services to the millions of survivors of torture worldwide and the estimated 400,000 survivors in this country alone. Repressive governments frequently torture those who are defending human rights and democracy in their own country, and the Torture Victims Relief Act recognizes the debt we owe to these courageous people who have made such a sacrifice for cherished principles.

It is hard to imagine that in today's world torture still exists, but it does. In solidarity with all victims of torture, I ask you to join me this week in honoring them by helping raise awareness about torture worldwide. All week the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition will be requesting meetings with members and staff, and conducting seminars to educate the public about torture. I urge you meet

with the Coalition or to attend a seminar to learn the truth about the brutality of this crime. Educating yourself and the public about this terrible human rights abuse is the best way to honor its victims. Together we can end this barbaric practice. Together we can put a stop to torture.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 26, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,647,618,721.190.63 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-seven billion, six hundred eighteen million, seven hundred twenty-one thousand, one hundred ninety dollars and sixty-three cents).

Five years ago, June 26, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,889,053,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-nine billion, fifty-three million).

Ten years ago, June 26, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,118,101,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred eighteen billion, one hundred one million).

Fifteen years ago, June 26, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,462,594,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred sixty-two billion, five hundred ninety-four million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 26, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$526,124,000,000 (Five hundred twenty-six billion, one hundred twenty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,121,494,721.190.63 (Five trillion, one hundred twenty-one billion, four hundred ninety-four million, seven hundred twenty-one thousand, one hundred ninety dollars and sixty-three cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE PASSING OF VERMONT CONSERVATIONIST, JUSTIN BRANDE

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to call the Senate's attention to a recent tribute to the late Justin Brande authored by Professor Carl Reidel of the University of Vermont.

In his article, Professor Reidel captures the spirit of one of the most influential pioneers of 20th Century Vermont environmental stewardship. Justin Brande of Cornwall was among the founders of the Lake Champlain Committee and the Vermont Natural Resources Council, two of the most enduring and effective conservation organizations in our state.

Vermonters committed to stewardship of the land, to clean water and to family farms owe a debt to Justin Brande. He was a leader in organic agriculture and a selfless volunteer for countless community and stewardship organizations who earned the sincere respect of all.

I request that the text of Dr. Reidel's article be printed in the RECORD and note that his words serve as a wonderful reminder of a life well led and a

Vermont whose legacy will nurture future generations. Vermont has been greatly improved because of both Justin Brande and Carl Reidel.

[From the Sunday Rutland (VT) Herald/the Times Argus, May 14, 2000]

BRANDE EXEMPLIFIES SECRET OF VERMONT

(By Carl Reidel)

"What's Vermont's secret?" a friend in Minnesota asked after I gave a talk in 1975 about Vermont's innovative environmental laws. He couldn't understand how such a small state could be "so creative, even bold."

I replied that I didn't know. I had only lived in Vermont two years.

I'm confident now that I know the secret of Vermont. It is people like Justin Brande, who lived in Cornwall from 1951 until he died on April 11 at the age of 83. Like so many who come to live in Vermont from elsewhere, Justin and Susan Brande knew they were coming home when they moved here. And the Vermont Constitution asserts that they are real Vermonters: "Every person of good character, who comes to settle in this State . . . shall be deemed a free denizen thereof, and entitled to all rights of a natural born subject of this state . . ." (Chapter II, 66).

After graduating from Williams College and several years of legal studies, Justin married Susan Kennedy and moved to Vermont. They settled on a dairy farm in Cornwall, where they raised eight children. In the late '60's Justin sold their herd and enrolled at the University of Vermont, where he earned a master's degree in resource economics. He continued to work his land, honing the ability to farm organically long before most people heard of "organic" agriculture. I can't guess how many people he taught over the years to make compost and garden in ways that made pesticides and chemical fertilizers unnecessary by drawing on the inherent health of the land.

Early on Justin became involved in his community as a relentless advocate for the land—a free denizen who may have participated in the founding of more Vermont environmental institutions than anyone I have known. And always as a volunteer. He has been a delegate or alternate on the Addison County Regional Planning Commission since its founding. He helped establish the Lake Champlain Committee, and was a founder and the first director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

In recent years he co-founded the Smallholders Association, which advocates ownership of small, sustainable farms and businesses. Once again, he was ahead of others in seeing the dangers of large enterprises out of scale with Vermont. He argued that his call for moderation and limits was "not nostalgia for the past, but a real workable model for today and the future * * * a truly humane, democratic and sustainable society."

Former Sen. Art Gibb recalls him as "a man ahead of his time, a voice crying in the wilderness" in his advocacy for land protection. Gov. Deane Davis who, with Gibb, crafted Act 250, said of him that "although a staunch environmentalist, he came to problems open-minded until all the evidence was in. Then he took his stand. Justin got me started, and kept after me until Act 250 was signed into law."

My first encounter with Justin was shortly after I came to UVM in 1972 to direct the new Environmental Program. One of the first to teach in the program, his courses seemed to cover everything from cosmology to composting, with no student surviving without new respect for the English language and permanent doubts about conventional economics.

When he offered a course in "organic gardening"—the first at UVM—the dean of the College of Agriculture chided me for allowing such "nonsense" in a classroom. It wasn't the first or last time that Justin Brande defied conventional thinking.

The secret of Vermont exemplified in Justin Brande's life is not, however, to be found in this summary of his accomplishments. Rather, it is in the words of the Constitution, which define a free denizen of Vermont as a "person of good character." Justin passed the test in every way.

He was a person of unusual integrity—a man who lived his convictions, every day, in every place. Never a traitor to his beliefs, Justin taught me and many others by example the deeper meanings of personal integrity.

He was a man of courage who was himself in the presence of anyone, be it a fellow farmer, college president, governor or member of Congress. Friend or foe did not daunt him, because he always put principle above reputation.

He was a man who cared enormously, for family and friends, for Vermont, for Lake Champlain, for land and life itself. Justin and I enjoyed a good debate. We could disagree strongly, but never with an unkind word.

Once, at the end of a lively discussion, he said to me: "What I like about you, Reidel, is that you are often in error, but never in doubt."

I have no doubts whatsoever that the secret of Vermont is people like Justin Brande, the every-day denizens who are the real heroes of this state. ●

MEDICARE'S BIRTHDAY

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I come to the floor to recognize the birthday of one of the most important programs known to the American people today: Medicare. Thirty-five years ago this week, the Medicare program was established in order to provide timely, quality health care coverage for America's retirees and the disabled. Today, the Medicare system still serves this country well, and I believe issues relating to its modernization, long-term solvency, and improvement should be among our top priorities in this legislative session.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 had a tremendously detrimental effect on provider payments under Medicare and on the organizations that deliver daily care to our seniors. The provisions in the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) relating to Medicare were designed to gradually help control costs to the program. Instead, the result has been an affront to organizations fighting for their existence. As a Member of the Senate, I meet with people daily from Minnesota who come to detail their concerns, their frustrations, and the impact the BBA continues to have on their institutions. These are institutions serving all segments of the healthcare industry, including inpatient and outpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facilities, home health care and emergency medical services.

Prior to the BBA, my state of Minnesota already experienced one of the lowest capitation, or reimbursement rates, in the country, so the BBA and

additional reductions in Medicare payment strategies have taken an enormous toll in my state. In fact, the situation has become so dire for so many institutions, providers and patients that the Minnesota Attorney General and the Minnesota Senior Federation have filed a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services in an effort to restructure payment schedules and capitation rates under Medicare Part C, or Medicare +Choice.

As I was working on my statement for today, I glanced across my desk and came across an advertisement that I think is relevant. The advertisement reads: "Where Will Our Patients Go?" It cites a new study conducted by Ernst & Young showing that between 1998 and 2000, hospital operating margins in the United States declined from 5.5 percent to 2.6 percent, a reduction of more than 50 percent in 2000. During that same period, hospitals' operating margins on services to Medicare patients declined from 2.5 percent in 1998 to negative 0.5 percent in 2000. Negative 0.5 percent. Translation: every Medicare patient that walks through the door of our hospitals and clinics cannot continue down this path of payment reduction while continuing to provide timely, quality health care services to our seniors and the disabled.

I raise these issues to emphasize the measurable consequences of legislative efforts to date, and to outline the challenges we face when attempting to add a prescription drug benefit onto an already ailing Medicare system. That is why during the budget process, I, along with Senator ABRAHAM and several of our colleagues, sent a letter to the budget resolution conferees requesting that language be included in the final report ensuring that any Medicare reforms, including the addition of a prescription drug benefit, would not be implemented at the expense of the provider payment rates that are in drastic need of restoration.

The simple fact is that Medicare does require reform. What form that will ultimately take is really the question. Clearly, Congress has taken steps to reinvigorate Medicare since passage of BBA including: the Balanced Budget Refinement Act, which in a broad sense returned funds to hospitals for outpatient services; the Hatch bill, which reduced the arbitrary caps on complicated cases in skilled nursing facilities; and the American Hospital Preservation Act, which currently addresses the other half of the hospital equation inpatient services. But these are only band-aids applied to a system that needs comprehensive reform or modernization, including a prescription drug benefit.

As you know, the Bipartisan Commission to Reform Medicare, under the direction of Congressman BILL THOMAS, and Senators BREAUX and FRIST, advocated dramatic reform in order to better position Medicare in the future and enhance the benefits offered under the program. Their plan relied heavily on